PRISONS BILL.

In moving for the appointment of a Select Committee to report on the Prisons Bill, Mr. Watts said :—

"The Bill is drafted on the lines of the British enactment with such slight modifications as local circumstances rendered necessary. There are in Travancore the following classes of prisons—the Central prison at the Capital, the District prisons at Quilon and Alleppey, the Court Jails at Nagercoil, Quilon and Parur, and the lockups attached to the police stations. As in British India, the lockups are excluded from the operation of the Bill. I have defined the words 'Central Prison' as the one at the Capital, since that Institution requires exceptional treatment in some respects, compared with the smaller prisons in the Districts. In the British Act, an officer called the 'Inspector-General' is appointed to inspect and control all the prisons in each Presidency, and certain powers are conferred on him by the Act. Considering the very small number of prisons here, I have made it optional with Government to appoint a separate officer or to devolve the duties on an officer holding some other appointment. There is another change which I have made. The Madras Act provides a Medical Officer and a Medical Subordinate for each prison. As this is not possible in Travancore, I have provided only a Medical Subordinate for stations where a Medical Officer is not posted. The other alterations are not material. I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao, Mr. Bensley, Mr. Muthunayagam Pillay and the mover, for report within six weeks." He also moved that the publication be deferred till the Bill is reported on by the Committee."

Mr. Thanu Pillay seconded the motion.

Carried

CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao moved that the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill be referred to a Select Committee to be composed of Mr. Thanu Pillay, Mr. Ramanatha Rao, Mr. Muthunayagam Pillay and the mover, to report in three weeks.

Mr. Ramanatha Rao seconded the motion.

Carried.

PENAL CODE BILL.

Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao moved that, as some of the members of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Penal Code Bill have now gone out of office, the Committee be reconstituted as follows :—Mr. Watts, Mr. Bensley, Mr. Thanu Pillay, Mr. Ramanatha Rao and the mover.

Mr. Muthunayagam Pillay seconded the motion.

Carried.

REGISTRATION BILL.

Mr. Muthunayagam Pillay moved his first amendment thus :—"In section 3 of the amended Bill, in the definition of the word '*addition*', substitute the words '*and in the case of a native, his caste (if any)*', for the words '*and in case of a Hindu, his caste.*'

He said :—"The words suggested by me are the words used in the original Bill, and also in the Indian Registration Act. The Select Committee have made a change, and give as their reason for so doing, that caste is a special feature of Hinduism. This reason will not be readily accepted by certain people who maintain that they observe caste, though they have ceased to be Hindus. It is unnecessary at present to enquire how far their contention is correct. But it would be well to respect their feelings. For, Mr. Stuart in his Report on the Census of India in 1891, at p. 310 of Volume XIII, says that there are 94,372 such people in the Madras Presidency alone. Mr. Nagum Aiya, our able Census Commissioner, at p. 391 of his last Report says—'It is often said that the Christians have no caste observances amongst them. This is not always so; on the contrary, caste feeling influences

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